

# STATE NEWS

The potato growers at Hastings have erected a three-story brick building to be used as a bank, exchange and offices for the Board of Trade. The potato industry at Hastings has grown to great proportions. The growers expect to ship 125,000 barrels this season.

The Jacksonville S. P. C. A. is doing good work for the care of hack horses. Through the influence of the organization the city has placed drinking hydrants at seven of the principal corners and has distributed 250 buckets free of cost to hackmen and draymen.

Duval county is to have an election May 11 to decide whether the county shall issue \$1,000,000 of bonds for the purpose of building good roads. If the issue is approved it will mean that Duval will do its share toward completing the road between Fernandina and Jacksonville.

Charlie P. Johnson, who was exonerated by the coroner's jury for the killing of John McFall a short time ago, was indicted by the grand jury for murder in the first degree and is now confined in the county jail, his case being set for the next term of court next fall.—Perry Herald.

Quincy is to have a new fire system. The Gamewell system of alarm will be installed. The department will have three paid men, a chief and two firemen. There will be two horses, a wagon, a thousand feet of hose and two chemical engines and other necessary equipment for fighting fire.

In the United States court yesterday J. S. Melvin, formerly postmaster at Millville, was sentenced to serve six months in the Walton county jail and pay a fine of \$250 for using the mails in furtherance of a scheme to defraud, having been convicted of this charge in the court the day prior. Melvin was exonerated on the charge of embezzling postoffice funds.—Pensacola Journal.

Work is soon to begin on the new federal building which is to be located at Fernandina. Tests of the solidity of the earth upon which the building is to be erected were conducted a few days ago by the government supervisor of public buildings. Upon report of the tests it is expected that the contract will be let in accordance with plans already approved.

The meetings conducted by Evangelist W. C. Swope at the Methodist church are awakening much interest, and large crowds are daily swarming to hear the eloquent preacher. As the meetings progress, and the splendid character of the sermons become more generally known, the interest undoubtedly will become greater, and there is every reason to hope that much spiritual good will result from the revival.—Lakeland News.

We learned from an eye witness last night of a distressing accident that occurred Sunday at Ormond. The East Coast train backs across the river to the Hotel Ormond and on this occasion an old negro and his wife were driving along, the horse became frightened at the train and bolted across the track. The horse was killed, the wagon smashed into kindling wood, and the old man killed, being literally ground to pieces and his wife so seriously hurt that the witness did not think she could live.—Ocala Star.

The Everglades drainage outfit has recently been augmented by the completion of the two dredges Miami and Caloosahatchee. The first will work from the Miami river and the other up the river for which it is named. The arrival of the latter dredge at Fort Myers was the occasion for a demonstration just as the arrival of the Miami was at that city. The people who have been opposed to the reclamation idea are being won over apparently. There are now four big dredges at work in the territory.

An old soldiers' colony is to be established near Kissimmee, and 6,000 acres of land have been purchased for that purpose. The undertaking is already an assured success. Twelve years ago a similar move was made at Fitzgerald, Ga., and now that place has between 15,000 and 20,000 inhabitants. The undertaking in Florida should prove as big a success as it did at Fitzgerald, for certainly the opportunities here for the old soldiers from the north to succeed are much better than in Georgia, with an incomparable climate and a fertile soil for fruits, vegetables and farming.—DeLand Record.

United States Deputy B. F. Dawkins arrived in Gainesville last Saturday from Newberry with Mason Warren, a middle-aged white man, that he arrested in the counterfeiting case. It will be remembered that some time ago two brothers, J. J. and Simeon Knighton, were arrested near Newberry for counterfeiting and Warren makes the third of what is alleged to be the gang. Several of the merchants in the West End were caught by the money, and it is said that it would be hard for anyone to detect it from the genuine. There are a great many witnesses summoned in the case and a large crowd is expected.

Jesse E. Burtz hasn't been sleeping much since he began the work of compiling the new City Directory of Palatka, and the result is that the work will be about completed this week, and ready for the publishers. The book will contain a fine map of Palatka, from original drawing of R. Raymond Price, besides much valuable information. Mr. Burtz says that a most conservative estimate of the population as made up from the names secured will show Palatka to contain over 5,000 people, about evenly divided between white and colored. Mr. Burtz will manage the editorial department of the Gainesville Sun during the absence of Senator McCreery in the legislature.—Palatka News.

James R. Gray, living alone on the old Idlewild grove, Panasoffkee Lake, was stricken with paralysis and was without aid and anything to eat excepting oranges for three days, when he succeeded in reaching a water barrel, where he was found by Mr. W. A. King's son, but was unable to talk, though he did succeed in writing on a piece of paper his condition. Mr. King secured assistance and took him home. Next day the sufferer was taken to the home of relatives at Wildwood, where he died. Deceased was a Confederate veteran, entered a private and came out a captain in Company G, Fourth Mississippi Regiment. He was twice captured by the federals. He had his arm shattered in battle and never after had the use of it.—Ocala Star.

Loy J. Davis, a prominent young married man of DeLand, was taken violently insane Wednesday morning at his home on Howry avenue. He arrived a few weeks ago from Alabama, where he has extensive business interests and since his arrival has been quite ill and acting rather queer. For several days he has been in charge of a nurse and about two o'clock in the morning became so afflicted that he assaulted his attendant and inflicted several severe wounds upon his face and head. A lunacy commission was appointed by Judge McCrory and he was pronounced insane and Thursday night he was taken to the state asylum at Chattahoochee.

Fire, which broke out presumably in shavings used for fuel, at the furnace of the Palatka Gas, Light and Fuel Company, in Palatka, at 2:45 o'clock last Saturday destroyed the dynamos of the electric light plant and consumed the woodwork above the dynamo room and boiler. The loss to property sustained is roughly estimated at \$4,000. The flames soon spread to a lot of fine

cord wood, piled between the furnace and the offices of the Tilghman shingle mill, and for awhile it was thought that the building was doomed, as a brisk wind was blowing toward it. Had it not been for the effective service of the firemen and an abundance of water, the chances are that many thousand dollars' worth of property would have gone up in smoke. It will require some time to repair the damage, so Palatka, in the meantime will be in darkness. The loss is doubtless covered by insurance.

"The Devil's Dream" is the name of a boat-automobile now being built in this city for the express purpose of crawling and swimming across the Everglades of Florida. Mr. John Buckley, formerly of Boston, Mass., who operates a little repair shop at 1211 Avenue C is the designer and builder of this peculiar motor concern, and within a few days he expects to give the machine a trial. The craft will be ready to be launched within a few days, when preliminary trips will be made into the Everglades. After the conditions in the 'Glades are thoroughly understood and the boat fitted to overcome obstacles of all kinds, a start will be made by Mr. Buckley in his Devil's Dream for a general search of the Florida Everglades.—Miami Metropolis.

R. P. Williams, the owner of the turpentine camp at which Sheriff Langston was so brutally murdered, attributes the whole unfortunate affair to the use of blind tiger whiskey, which the negroes of his camp had in some way managed to obtain. He says that ordinarily there is not a more law-abiding set of negroes in Florida. He has made confidants and trustees of many of them, and has never yet had one to betray his trust unless he had previously filled up on this foul stuff. Mr. Williams says that on the day prior to the killing, two white men were in his camp with a wagon, and it is the presumption that from these the negroes obtained the whiskey which brutalized them and caused the horrible tragedy. The gentleman says that the appearance of this blind tiger stuff in his camp has become of frequent occurrence recently, very much to his damage and inconvenience, and insists that the officers first use their diligence in stopping this damnable practice. He is very denunciatory of the lawless white men who are suspected of trafficking in this element of hell, and says that if the authorities do not suppress it he will be forced to take the law in his own hands for self protection.—Tallahassee True Democrat.

Roger Johnson, a hanger on around Dunnellon, was shot through the head last night and will die. Our readers will remember that for a year or more there has been a gang of robbers at work in the Phosphate City, operating in the hotels and boarding houses. To ascertain the guilty parties the city of Dunnellon hired a detective, who caught up with several of the gang, among them this man, Johnson. The detective worked up a scheme on Johnson whereby they were to kill the marshal of the



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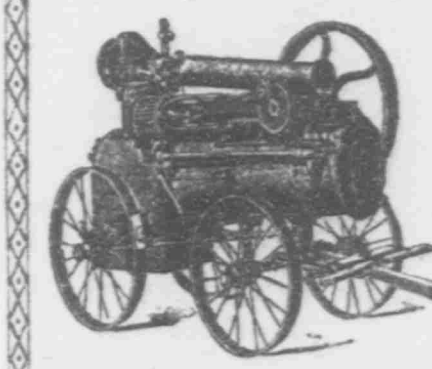
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city, Editor Peacock and Mayor Kibler, rob the Withlacoochee Hotel and then be captured. The evidence in the case against the men will probably be brought out at the preliminary. The scheme was concocted and the hour of meeting, Johnson tumbled to the detective's racket, and when Johnson and the detective met, the former having borrowed the latter's pistol, Johnson attempted to shoot him, firing two shots, one passing on either side of the detective's head, when the detective seized the hands of Johnson, pointed the pistol at his head and fired, the ball passing through Johnson's head near the right ear. The wounded man is still alive, but there is no hope for his recovery. There are others of the thieving gang and the authorities hope to arrest them.—Ocala Star.

Miami will have a new city hall to cost \$18,000. One good thing about it is that Miami will furnish the material of which the building will be constructed—Miami stone. A number of the public buildings in that city are of this material. It is durable and ornamental and the section about Miami has a limitless store of it.

Deputy Sheriff Wynn of Newberry has arrested Jas. Hodge, another of the alleged counterfeiters of the Newberry gang, and U. S. Deputy Dawkins brought the man here yesterday and placed him in jail to await the preliminary hearing, which will occur before Commissioner Cushman on Tuesday. This makes four of the crowd that have been rounded up and it is understood

that the remaining members will be captured. The evidence in the case against the men will probably be brought out at the preliminary. The scheme was concocted and the hour of meeting, Johnson tumbled to the detective's racket, and when Johnson and the detective met, the former having borrowed the latter's pistol, Johnson attempted to shoot him, firing two shots, one passing on either side of the detective's head, when the detective seized the hands of Johnson, pointed the pistol at his head and fired, the ball passing through Johnson's head near the right ear. The wounded man is still alive, but there is no hope for his recovery. There are others of the thieving gang and the authorities hope to arrest them.—Ocala Star.

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